

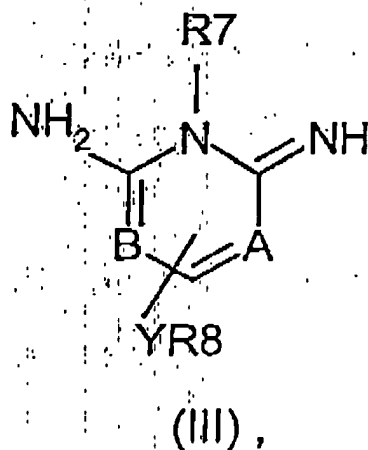
In the Claims:

Please amend claim 12, 17, 18 and 21 as follows:

Claims 1 to 11 (canceled).

12(currently amended). A method of at least one of promoting hair growth and decreasing hair loss, said method comprising the steps of:

a) providing an agent comprising at least one compound of formula (III) a physiologically compatible salt thereof ~~member selected from the group consisting of compounds of formula (III) and physiologically compatible salts thereof;~~



wherein **A** and **B**, independently of each other, are each a CH group of a nitrogen atom, with the proviso that at least one of said **A** and **B** is said CH group.

Y represents -O-, $-(CH_2)_n$ -, $-NH-CH_2$ -, $-CH_2-NH$ -, $-N=N$ -, $-CH=CH$ -, $-CH_2-O$ -, $-O-CH_2$ -, $-N=CH$ -, $-CH=N$ -, $-(CH_2-CH_2-O)_m$ - or $-(O-CH_2-CH_2)_m$ -, with m and n independently of each other, equal to 1, 2, 3 or 4;

R7 represents -OH, -OSO₃H, -OALK or -OCOCH₃, wherein ALK represents an alkyl group having one to four carbon atoms;

R8 represents an alkyl group with one to eight carbon atoms, a hydroxyalkyl group having from one to six carbon atoms, a hydroxyalkenyl group having from two to six carbon atoms, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group or an alkenyl carboxylic acid group having two to six carbon atoms; and

b) applying said agent to hair and scalp in an amount sufficient for said promoting of said hair growth or said decreasing of said hair loss; and

c) leaving said agent on said hair and scalp for a predetermined time interval;

13(original). The method as defined in claim 12, wherein said predetermined time interval is at least 24 hours.

14(original). The method as defined in claim 12, wherein after said applying to said scalp is massaged for another predetermined time interval.

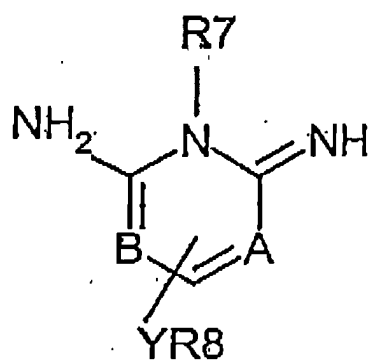
15(original). The method as defined in claim 14, wherein said another predetermined time interval is for from 1 to 5 minutes.

16 (canceled).

17 (currently amended). The method as defined in claim 12, wherein said agent is a compound of the formula (III) in which Y represents -N=N-, $-(CH_2)_n$ -, $-CH=CH$ -, $-N=CH$ - or $-CH=N$ -; R7 represents -OH, -OSO₃H or -OALK, where ALK is an alkyl group having one to four carbon atoms and R8 represents an alkyl group with one to six carbon atoms, a hydroxyalkyl group having from one to six carbon atoms, a phenyl group, a benzyl group or a pyridyl group.

18 (currently amended). The method as defined in claim 12, wherein A method at least one of promoting hair growth and decreasing hair loss, said method comprising the steps of:

a) providing an agent comprising at least one compound of formula (III) or a physiologically compatible salt thereof;



(III),

wherein A and B, independently of each other, are each a CH group.

Y represents -O-, $-(CH_2)_n$ -, $-NH-CH_2$ -, $-CH_2-NH$ -, $-N=N$ -, $-CH=CH$ -, $-CH_2-O$ -,

$-O-CH_2$ -, $-N=CH$ -, $-CH=N$ -, $-(CH_2-CH_2-O)_m$ - or $-(O-CH_2-CH_2)_m$ -, with m and n

independently of each other, equal to 1, 2, 3 or 4;

R7 represents -OH, $-OSO_3H$ -, -OALK or $-OCOCH_3$ -, wherein ALK represents an alkyl group having one to four carbon atoms;

R8 represents an alkyl group with one to eight carbon atoms, a hydroxyalkyl group having from one to six carbon atoms, a hydroxyalkenyl group having from two to six carbon atoms, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group or an alkenyl carboxylic acid group having two to six carbon atoms; and

b) applying said agent to hair and scalp in an amount sufficient for said promoting of said hair growth or said decreasing of said hair loss; and

c) leaving said agent on said hair and scalp for a predetermined time interval;

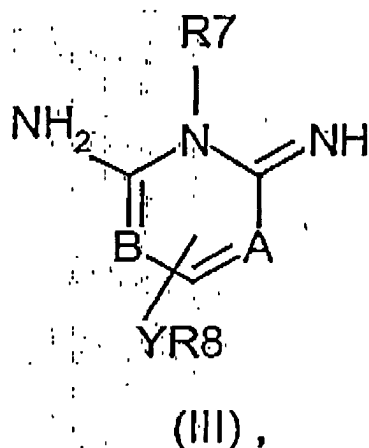
wherein said agent is 2,6-diamino-3-((pyridin-3-yl)-azo)pyridin-1-oxide

19 (canceled).

20(original): The method as defined in claim 12, wherein said agent is a hair or a preparation for sustained release of said agent.

21(currently amended). A method of at least one of promoting hair growth and decreasing hair loss, said method comprising the steps of:

a) providing an agent comprising at least one compound of formula
a physiologically compatible salt thereof member selected from the group
 consisting of compounds of formula (III) and physiologically compatible salts
 thereof.



wherein A and B, independently of each other, are each a CH group or
 a nitrogen atom, with the proviso that at least one of said A and B is said CH
 group

Y represents -O-, $-(CH_2)_n$ -, $-NH-CH_2$ -, $-CH_2-NH$ -, $-N=N$ -, $-CH=CH$ -, $-CH_2-O$ -,
 $-O-CH_2$ -, $-N=CH$ -, $-CH=N$ -, $-(CH_2-CH_2-O)_m$ - or $-(O-CH_2-CH_2)_m$ -, with m and n
 independently of each other, equal to 1, 2, 3 or 4;

R7 represents -OH, $-OSO_3H$ -, -OALK or $-OCOCH_3$, wherein ALK represents a
 alkyl group having one to four carbon atoms;

R8 represents an alkyl group with one to six carbon atoms, a hydroxyalkyl group
 having from one to six carbon atoms, a hydroxyalkenyl group having from two

six carbon atoms, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group or an alkenyl carboxyl group having two to six carbon atoms; and

b) applying said agent to hair and scalp in an amount sufficient for promoting of said hair growth or said decreasing of said hair loss;

c) massaging said scalp for one to five minutes after the applying of step b); and

d) leaving said agent on said hair and said scalp for at least 24 hours.

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